



News from the . . .

Broward County Commission
**ANIMAL CARE AND REGULATION
DIVISION**

NEWS RELEASE • NEWS RELEASE • NEWS RELEASE

DATE: July 27, 2005

CONTACT: Howard Rosen, State Department of Health, Broward County

Health Department, 954-487-4854

CONTACT: Allan Siegel, Marketing Manager, Animal Care and Regulation
Division, 954-359-1010

RELEASED BY:

Public Communications Office

954-357-6990

FAX: 954-357-6936

**Cat with Rabies Found in Davie
Rabies Clinic Scheduled for July 31 in Pembroke Park**

Test conducted on July 25, 2005 by the State Department of Health Miami Regional Laboratory indicated that a cat was positive for rabies.

Animal Care and Regulation picked up a stray (wild) cat on July 21, 2005 at a business located on the 8100 block of Orange Drive in Davie. The cat was acting strangely so it was euthanized on July 25 and sent to the Health Department for testing. The Broward County Health Department is determining if there was any human exposure to the rabid cat.

This is the fourth rabies case in 2005 in Broward County and the 33rd animal infected with rabies found in Broward County since July 2000. The previous case of rabies, confirmed on May 11, 2005, was a dog in Cooper City. This is the second rabid cat found in Davie this year with the first rabid cat confirmed on May 2.

The Broward County Health Department declared a Rabies Alert on May 11 for the area west of State Road 7 to U.S. 27 and from State Road 84 south to Sheridan Street. This area includes the cities of Cooper City, Davie, Southwest Ranches, and Weston. The Animal Care and Regulation Division will increase surveillance in the rabies alert area and pick up stray dogs and cats.

Animal Care officers from the Broward County Animal Care and Regulation Division will walk door-to-door on the immediate block starting on Thursday, July 28, 2005. The officers will inform residents about the rabies situation and safety precautions to take.

Officers are also checking on the rabies vaccination and licensing of cats and dogs. The Animal Care officers issue warnings to pet owners, whose pets do not have current rabies vaccinations and license tags, giving them 30 days to accomplish this. Failure to comply within the 30-day period results in a \$110 citation for each animal. Officers are increasing their surveillance of the area and impounding any stray cat or dog.

The State Department of Health Broward County Health Department and the Broward County Animal Care and Regulation Division recommend taking the following precautions:

Cat with Rabies Found in Davie

Page 1 of 2

- Avoid contact with wild animals because they could be infected with rabies. Although special care should be taken to stay away from animals that seem to be ill or acting strangely, some animals that look healthy could be infectious. Anyone who is bitten or scratched should immediately clean the wound with soap and water and seek medical attention.
- For the protection of domestic animals and humans, Broward County law requires all cats (including indoor cats) and dogs four months and older receive a yearly rabies vaccination and wear a County license tag. Rabies vaccinations are available at all veterinary offices. Most sell the County animal license tags.
- Keep pets away from wildlife, especially at night when wildlife is most active.
- Do not feed any wildlife.
- Do not leave pet food outside. This will attract wildlife to your yard.
- Report any sick, or injured raccoons, foxes or bats. Residents should call Animal Care Dispatch at 954-359-1313, ext. 400, from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Call Fire Central Dispatch at 954-765-5124 between 5:30 p.m. and 7 a.m. on weekdays, and 24 hours a day on weekends and holidays.

Animal Care and Regulation will hold a Low-Cost Rabies Vaccination and License Tag clinic this Saturday, July 31 at McTyre Park located at 3501 S.W. 56th Avenue in Pembroke Park from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The \$15 cash only fee includes the rabies vaccination and county animal license tag. For a map to the clinic, go to www.broward.org/animal.

To qualify, a pet owner must live in the Rabies Alert Area of Cooper City, Davie, Southwest Ranches, or Weston. They can also be a low-income Broward resident who meets one of the following criteria:

1. Receive public assistance, AFDC, unemployment, workers' compensation, or food stamps.
2. Receive Social Security and fall within Federal low-income guidelines.
3. Receive Social Security Income Disability.
4. Fall within Federal low-income guidelines based on income and family size.

Residents living in the Rabies Alert Area must provide proof of address such as a driver's license or utility bill. Low-income pet owners must provide proof of eligibility such as Social Security pay stub, food stamp card, or AFDC stub, and proof of a current Broward County address such as a driver's license or utility bill.

Additional Clinics (all clinics are scheduled on Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.):

- August 27 at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, 2400 Charleston Street, Hollywood
- September 24 at Westside Park, 445 S.W. 2nd St., Deerfield Beach

For more information about the rabies clinics, call 954-359-1010 or visit www.broward.org/animal.